SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—A special officer is now investigating the whole question. Till his investigation is completed and his report is received and considered by Government, it will not be possible to make any announcement on the subject of the water-rate to be levied on the lands benefited by the Kodayar Project. In view, however, to the apprehensions that are probably entertained by the holders of lands under the Kodayar, I have no hesitation in conveying to them the assurance of Government that the matter will be dealt with as sympathetically as possible. Before passing final orders on any scheme submitted, I shall visit the area concerned and hear what the people concerned have to say.

7. *Demand notice fees.*

Mr. K. Sankara Pillai (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) said that demand notices were being issued if payment was not made within the 15th of the month in which it fell due and that the method of calculating demand notice fees with reference to the distances at which the ryots lived worked hardship. The tax might be one fanam and the fees might come to 5 or 6 fanams. He requested that summonses might be issued instead of notices.

Mr. K. Narayana Panicker (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) in supporting the member, said that in civil courts a uniform fee was being levied for notices, and that a fixed rate might also be levied for demand notices irrespective of the distances the peons had to go to serve them.

Dewan's reply.—There are two requests made in regard to this subject. The first is that we should not issue demand notices when people would not pay the monies due by them to the Sirkar, but that we should give them some days of grace and afterwards send a summons. This suggestion cannot be accepted. If a ryot does not pay, it is the duty of the Sirkar to send him a demand notice.

In regard to demand notice fees, at present these fees are calculated ratably according to the distances from the Taluk cutcherry to the residences of the defaulters. The question whether a uniform scale of fees may not be prescribed for all distances will be considered.

8. *Assessment on puduvals.*

Mr. K. Geevarghese (Member, Quilon Taluk) referred to the hardship resulting from a recent order of Government prescribing an assessment of not less than 5 fanams per acre on puduval lands and requested that the assessment should be made with reference to the *tharams* as determined by the Settlement department.

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SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—The present practice in regard to the grant of puduval lands is this:—

(1) Where the rate of assessment for a puduval land has been already fixed by the Settlement department, such rate is almost invariably adopted, except when the rate is unduly low, in which case the Revenue department is competent to enhance the rate;

(2) Where no rate has been fixed for a puduval land by the Settlement department, it is competent to the Revenue department to assign one of the prevailing dry rates, which range from 1 to 15 fanams per acre. The Revenue department, in assigning a rate, will take into consideration the rates already fixed for adjoining lands. Government consider the present practice a reasonable one and are not prepared to make any changes. If in any particular case, it is found that there is hardship, it is open to the party aggrieved to bring it to the notice of the Peishkar.

9. *Commutation into money of Thiruppuvaram paid to Jenmis.*

Mr. K. Sankara Pillai (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) requested that Thiruppuvaram paid in kind by the ryots to the Jenmis might be commuted into money as in the case of the Sirkar tax. He proposed that three-fourths of the paddy tax might be allowed to be paid at 6 chuckrams per para and one-fourth at 11 chuckrams, or that the whole might be made payable at 11 chuckrams per para.

Mr. N. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Chirayinkil Taluk) referred to the inability on the part of the tenants in some cases to pay the dues year by year and to the tendency on the part of the Jenmis to allow the dues to fall in arrears for about 12 years with the intention of obtaining a decree against the property or person of the tenant. The subject was brought forward last session and Government said that they were awaiting the replies of the Peishkars.

Dewan's reply.—Thiruppuvarams are paddy revenues assigned long ago by Government to certain Jenmis and institutions. If we now go and convert them into money, the Jenmis or institutions will claim compensation. That will mean expenditure to the Sirkar. We must first know what the probable expenditure will be, before we do anything. We are waiting for the reports of the Peishkars.

10. *Reduction of price of tax-receipt books.*

Mr. K. Narayana Panicker (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) said that the price fixed for tax-receipt books

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